SUBJECTS.

Dewan's reply.—Government are against taking action in the manner proposed. Their policy is to leave intact all Forest Reserves. I admit that some areas *may* be found in the Reserves which are devoid of tree growth and which are fit for cultivation. But the assignment of such areas to private individuals for cultivation will create numerous difficulties. The protection of Reserved Forests, with patches of cultivation scattered all over them, is a difficult matter.

30. Exclusion of the Kumarenperur North and South and Vattapara tracts from the Reserves.

Mr. Aiyappan Aiyappan (Member, Chengannur Taluk) represented that the ryots were labouring under several difficulties, in consequence of the policy of Government with regard to Reserves. Reserved Forests extended up to human habitations and there were therefore no areas available to the people for agriculture. Besides, tapioca and other roots cultivated by the poor peasants were being destroyed by wild beasts coming in from the forests in the vicinity. The Member, therefore, requested that the Kumarenperur North and South, and Vattappara tracts, which embraced most of the inhabited quarters in the Kumbazha and Rani proverthies, might be excluded from the proposed Reserves, along with similar areas in other taluks, thus allowing a sufficient area for all the requirements of the growing population.

Dewan's reply.—The Kumaranperur North and South Reserves were notified so long ago as May 1902. That was the preliminary Notification. The Peishkar of the Division is making enquiries in connection with the settlement. He will be instructed to proceed to Rani and enquire into the complaints about the proposed Reserves and make the settlement on the spot. It is open to Government to exclude any portion of the area before final Notification. The allegation that some of the populated area in the Kumpuzha and Rani proverthies falls within the Kumaranperur North and South proposed Reserves will be enquired into. I shall visit Rani and inspect the areas myself before passing the final Notification. The Vattapara block is a small area of about 50 acres. Its reservation is necessary for protecting the teak plantation. That Reserve will not be given up.

31. Registry of the grazing grounds and waste lands adjoining registered lands in the Forest Reserves.

Mr. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Pathanapuram Taluk) represented that the ryots experienced much difficulty on account of the lands surrounding their fields being reserved. Their crops were being destroyed during the rainy season by floods coming down from the Reserves.

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SUBJECTS.

Besides, the branches of trees and bamboos growing within the Reserves ruined the crops. Further, the poor ryots were being prosecuted and punished by the Forest officers for trespass. As a remedy, the Member proposed that, around each field, a boundary might be cut by taking two links from the Reserves. Grazing grounds and waste lands adjoining registered lands within the Reserves should be registered as *puthuvals* in the names of the owners of the adjoining paddy lands for the protection of their crops.

Dewan's reply.—Government are against increasing the area of private registry or of cultivation within the boundaries of regularly constituted Reserves. The proposal to allow round each cultivated land a belt, which the ryot may be permitted to use, but need not cultivate, will be enquired into. Ryots have access under the existing rules to their cultivated lands within the Reserves, and that right will of course be recognised. The Conservator is being instructed accordingly.

22. *Green manure and agricultural implements.*

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Aiyar (Member, Shencotta Taluk) stated that the supply of green manure and agricultural implements might be improved, if the tank-bunds and channel-bunds were allowed to be planted with trees for green manure etc. by the adjacent land-owners on application, through licenses issued for the purpose by the officers of the Irrigation Department. The license might be cancelled and damage recovered, if the *Porambokes* were used for other purposes. The Member also pointed out that the *niruthal* lands might be ordered to be registered or leased out on *kuthakapattom* to ryots on payment of the assessment fixed thereon by the Settlement Department.

Dewan's reply.—The question of the supply of green manure and agricultural implements has been referred to Government by the Conservator. The suggestions of the Member will be considered in passing orders on that reference.

23. *Putting back forest limits, so as to provide grazing grounds, and for the supply of fuel and agricultural implements.*

Mr. Eravi Narayana Menon (Member, Kunnatnad Taluk) represented that the people were labouring under great difficulties on account of the extension of the Reserves up to their cultivated lands. To remove these difficulties, the Member suggested that it was desirable to exclude, from the Reserved Forests, lands within a radius of one mile from cultivated lands, to provide free grazing grounds as also fuel and agricultural implements.

Dewan's reply.—No general rule like this is feasible. The general question of Fuel and Fodder Reserves is engaging consideration.

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